

GST “Use of Library” and its Impact on the Utilization of Library Resources and Services among Undergraduate Students in Federal University Dutsinma Katsina State.

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Abstract

This study is on GST “Use of library” and its impact on the use of library resources and services among undergraduate students of Federal University Dutsin-ma. GST “Use of library” is undertaken to educate, guide and help students to identify, understand and utilize library information resources effectively. The objectives of this research are: to know the level of punctuality of teaching staff of GST “Use of library” of Federal University Dutsin-ma, to examine the level of Conveniences of lecture facilities of GST Use of library to undergraduate Students of Federal University Dutsin-ma. A survey research design was adopted for the study. The population for the study consist of twenty-four thousand, five hundred and fifty-two (24,552) undergraduate students and a sample size 205 was drawn using stratified sampling technique together and questionnaire was used for data collection from the respondents. Descriptive statistics including frequency counts and percentage were used for reporting the findings. The findings showed that Federal University Dutsin-Ma Students acquire a lot of skills after completing their GST “Use of library”. The high percentage recorded that GST “Use of library” has motivate their way of attending library and its resources and this finding identified unconducive lectures venue, poor seating arrangements, teaching method and absenteeism of some lecturers offering the GST “Use of library” as the major challenges undergraduates Students of Federal University Dutsin-Ma faced. The study recommended that: That, due to the usefulness of the course to students, it should continue be offered to help students learn the technicalities of using library and its resources to better their academic activities. Government as well as institutions of learning should provide more lecture theatres and facilities such as public address system, chairs for students to have convenient and satisfied lecture atmosphere.

Keywords: *General studies, undergraduate students, use of library, resource utilization, academic activities.*

Introduction

In all higher institutions of learning, GST Course “Use of Library” has been among the GSTs offered and recommended for students due to its vital role in training and preparing students on how to use and appreciate the resources and services of libraries for the attainment of their academic pursuit. It's assumed that the course will change Students’ attitudes towards using the library as well as its resources and services for better academic performance, but yet some or majority of university students are not using libraries and its resources and services which may

likely affects their performances as well as the recent changes in the university curriculum with the adoption of CCMAS which removed use of library among the GSTs to be offered in the university system.

Statement of the Problem

Academic libraries provide numerous services to their clientele to facilitate teaching, learning and research of the parent community. Undoubtedly, libraries are the Centre of academic activities and therefore attract instructors, learners and the general public. They are the backbone of tertiary educational institutions. Educational institutions are aware of the fact that academic libraries are the driving force behind them and this has made them to adequately equip their libraries with resource to ensure academic success and attainment of the institutions' missions and visions.

The presence of Library and its Services in an academic institutions is so vital, looking at its immense contribution to academic success and performance for both staff and students in academic Institutions and provision of reliable information resources and services to equip the whole institution to achieve its purpose, Federal University Dutsin-ma is on the line to improve its Academic success and improve its Students performance, in order to achieve these, Federal University Dutsin-ma have to make Use of the rich materials (Information resources and Services) in the university library and to ensure the full utilization of the library and its resources and services, there is need for teaching the undergraduate students a GST course "use of library", to improve their utilization of library as well as enriching their academic performance, hence the need for the conduct of this study.

Research questions

1. What's the level of punctuality of Teaching Staff of GST Use of Library of Federal University Dutsin-ma?
2. What's the level of Conveniences of lecture facilities of GST use of library to undergraduate Students of Federal University Dutsin-ma?

Review of related literatures

Academic libraries play a significant role towards the achievement of the goals of tertiary institutions and hardly would academic institutions be able to provide for the academic, intellectual and other interests and information needs of students without the services of good libraries. This is because a good library and information services have been noted as essential ingredient for research, successful teaching and learning (Banting et'al, 2008). According to Agyen-Gyasi, Lamptey and Frempong (2010), academic libraries are essential contributors to knowledge generation and serve a wide spectrum of knowledge seekers.

According to Okwakol (2009), higher education institutions are charged with the formation of human capital through teaching, building knowledge base through research and knowledge development, and dissemination and use of knowledge by interacting with the knowledge users. Academic library performs a crucial role in the educational process. Chamani Gunasekera (2010) conducted a study on "student use of an academic library; the study found that, the undergraduates are overall satisfied with available library resources, services and facilities. But it further found that library resources and services are not being fully utilized by undergraduates. He suggested that the information literacy program should be conducted to promote awareness and use of electronic information resources. He also recommends that the library should increase its usage.

Providing access to information about the resources available in academic libraries play a significant role in helping the students discover the facilities available in the library. Many factors of library usage play an imperative part in determining students' performance such as individual behavior, Library staff co-operation, library services, and proper guidance to use the resources, better communication and learning facilities and atmosphere and harmonious relationship between librarian and students.

Ibrahim (2020) in his study "Perceptions on Integrating Library Instruction Programs in Polytechnic Libraries in the North-Eastern states of Nigeria" examined the various library instruction programs provided in the polytechnic libraries and their status in the north-eastern states of Nigeria. The population of the study consisted of the entire 85 librarians, 60,163 students in the entire 8 accredited polytechnics within the zone during the 2018/2019 academic session. The study shows that, the difficulties students faced during instruction programs vary considerably among the institutions under investigation. As a result, Polytechnic libraries must reexamine user training to improve the use of both print and electronic resources. To influence improvements in students' library behavior, it was suggested that library education programs be incorporated into the Polytechnic curriculum.

A study on "Assessment of light levels and visual comfort in a lecture hall of a university in Akure, Nigeria" by Afolami, Akeremale and Ikudayisi, (2017). The goal was to establish baseline features for lecture theaters by determining normal light levels in the 750-person lecture hall and comparing them to worldwide benchmarks. Using the Precision Gold N21FR hand held luximeter, artificial and natural light levels were measured in the 750-seat lecture hall at the Federal University of Technology, Akure, Nigeria in July 2017 between 7am and 7pm hourly. It was found that the average illumination in the hall around 7pm on July 22nd was as low as 0.01lux. The computation approach was also used to determine the average artificial light intensity, which came up at 3.14 Lux. The study's findings will be used as input for a potential overhaul of the lecture hall's lighting system, and it was determined that on July 22, 2017, the natural light levels in the 750-seat lecture hall were as low as 0.01 Lux. As low as 3.14Lux, the artificial light level was likewise inadequate. The result of the low artificial light levels is that, when natural light levels are low, as they occasionally are between 7:00 and 9:00 am and 4:00 and 7:00 pm, the artificial light level is insufficient to meet user needs because it is far below the 200 Lux IESNA benchmark for lecture theaters.

Research methodology

This study employed a survey research design, which is suitable for collecting data from a specific population to identify patterns, relationships, and trends. The population of the study consisted of 24,552 students across all faculties of the university, the researcher employed a stratified sampling techniques. A sample of 1% of the population of the undergraduate Students was selected to represent the students across the sampled Faculties in Federal University Dutsin-ma and arrived at 205 sample size. Okunlamiri (2002) in Uhegbu (2009) stated that there is no specified percentage of samples to a population as far as the sample will truly represent the population under study. Adogbo and Ojo (2013.32) observed that stratified sampling could be used when the targeted population is divided in to relevant strata or categories. The researcher adopted questionnaire as the instrument for data collection. This instrument was adopted because the type of data required for the research is quantitative in nature. The study used descriptive statistics and simple percentages in bar charts form to present and analyzed the data.

Analysis and Discussion of Findings

Out of the 205 copies of the questionnaire distributed to the students across the sampled faculties in Federal University Dutsin-ma 175 (85.3%) were duly completed and returned and found usable for this study. The researcher used online questionnaire for data collection and the respondents were given up to two weeks within which to complete and return their copies of questionnaire.

Table 4.1: Response Rate

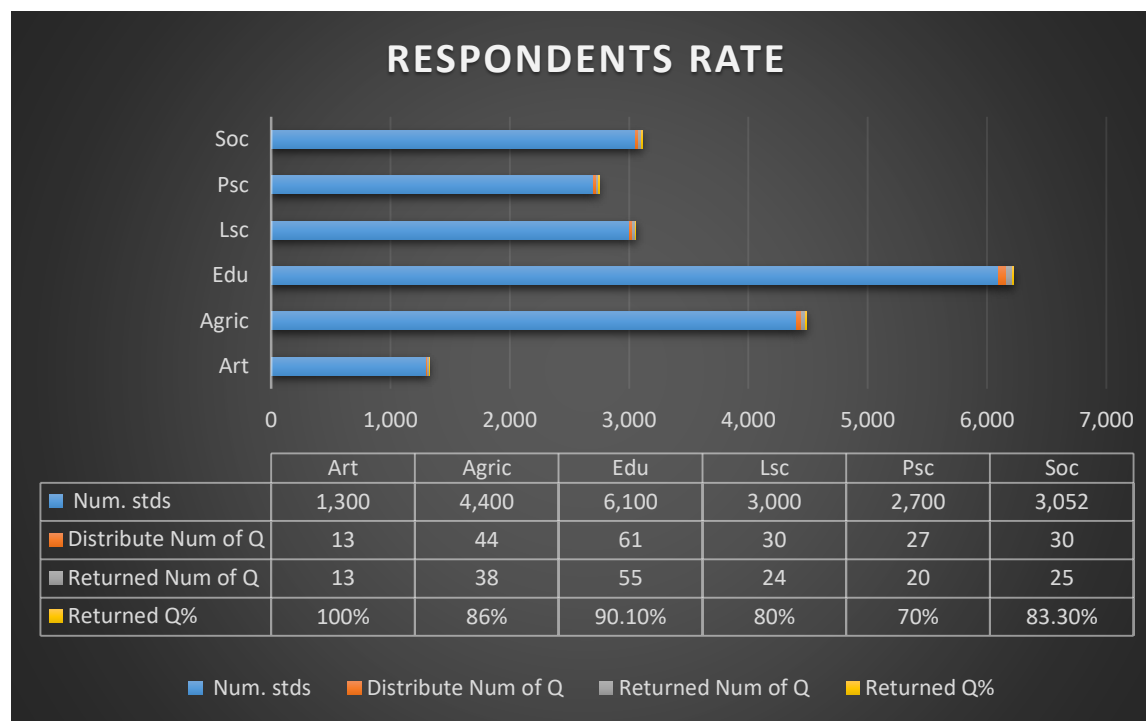
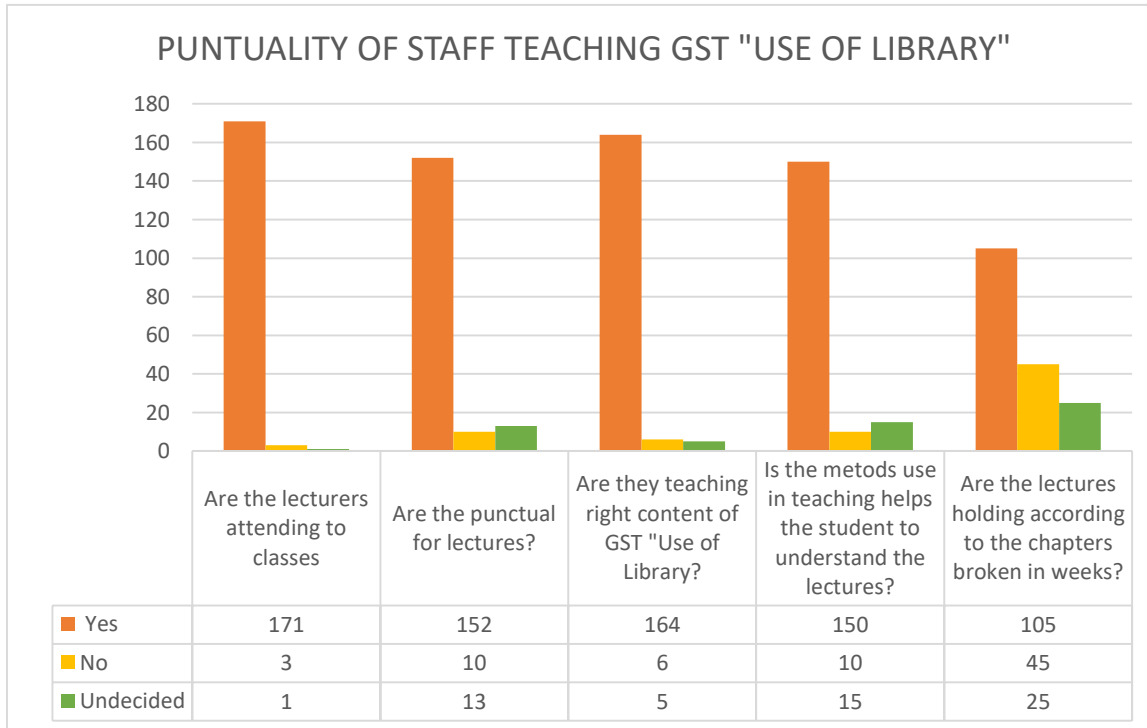


Table 4.1 shows that students from Faculty of Art has the highest response with 13(100%) respondents; followed closely by Faculty of Education with 55(90.1%) respondents. The differences in the response rate are mainly due to the population size of the respondents in their faculties since the administering is done proportionately. The same table revealed that the least response is the faculty of Physical Science with 20(70%), while faculty of Social Science has the response of 25(83.3%) then faculty of Agriculture has the response of 38(86.3%) and faculty of Life Science has the response of 24(80%). The result of these is attributed to the minimal number of students in faculty of art which enable the researcher to record a high response rate.

Descriptive Analysis:

This section analyses and discusses data collected for the purposes of answering the five research questions raised in the study. Frequencies and Percentages were used to compute and present the results.

Table 4.2: Punctuality of Teaching Staff of GST “Use of Library” of Federal University Dutsin-Ma



As its seen clearly from the table 171(97.7%) respondents affirm yes that GST “use of library” lecturers do attend to them in classes, while 164(93.7%) respondents still testify that the teaching staff of GST “use of library” teaches them the right content of GST “use of library”, 152(86.8%) formalized that the lectures of GST “use of library” are punctual to lectures. As seen in the table a remarkable number of respondents of 150(85.7%) agreed that the method uses in teaching them GST122 helps them to understand the lecture, however 105(60%) respondents attested that the lectures are taking according to the chapters broken on weekly.

These findings are showing that GST122 is offered in FUDMA and is supported by what Anyauko (2015) said about “Library instruction” in tertiary institution where he conducted a study to ascertain that nature and status of library instruction programs in south-eastern universities in Nigeria, the finding revealed that five universities out of seven embedded the course in General Study (GST) in their universities. This implies GST “Use of library” course is offer in the University and it enhances effective utilization of library resources and services.

Table 4.3: Lecture Facilities and Convenience of Venue.

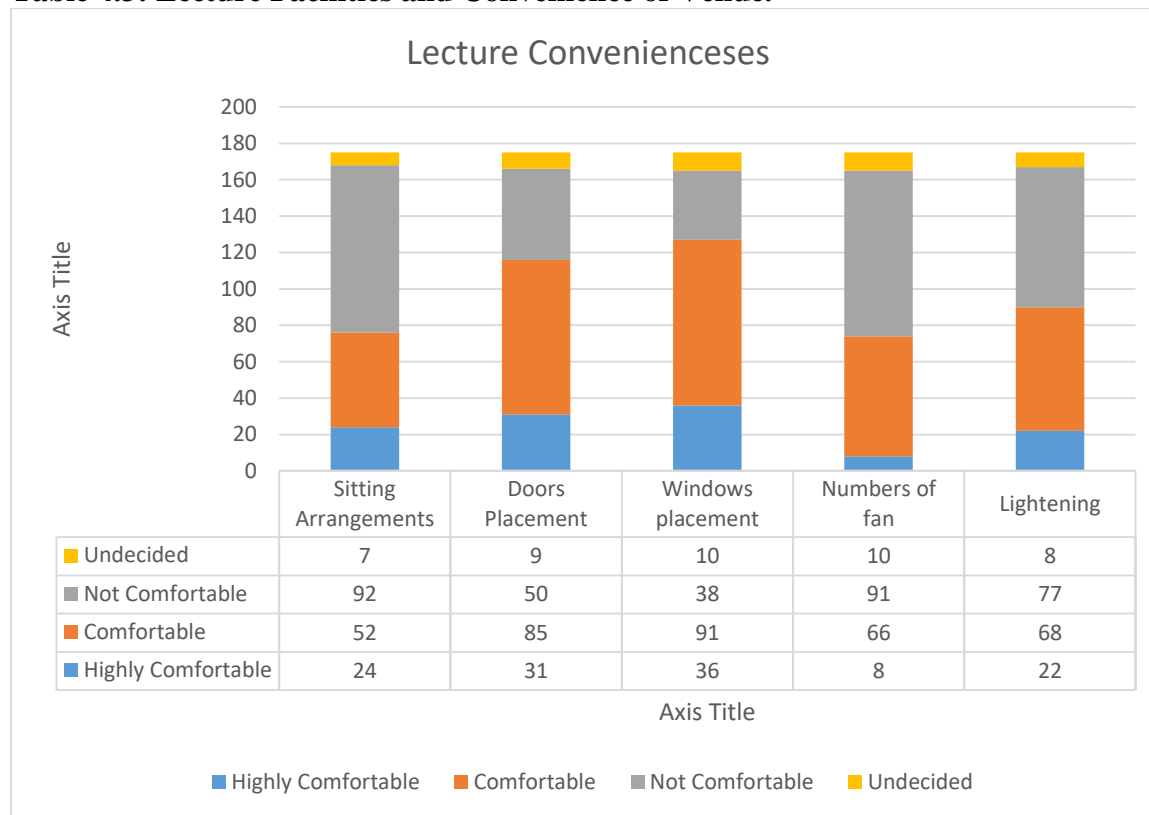


Table 4.3 shows the level of the lecture hall conveniences.

According to respondents opinions 92(52.5%) are not comfortable with the sitting arrangements of the lecture venue of GST “use of library” in FUDMA, 91(51%) respondents are comfortable with windows placement, while 91(51%) respondents were not comfortable with numbers of fans in the lecture hall. However, 85(48.5%) are comfortable with the Door placement and 31(17.7%) are highly comfortable with the door’s placement. it can be seen clearly from the table that respondent’s response with a respective number of 77(44%) are not comfortable with the lightening of the lecture hall.

These findings are in line with the findings of John (2008) in his article he discusses the various challenges and inconveniences associated with traditional lecture hall settings. He highlights factors such as limited interaction, poor acoustics and uncomfortable seating arrangements that can hinder student’s engagement and learning.

Table 4.4: Lecture Venue Convenient Satisfaction

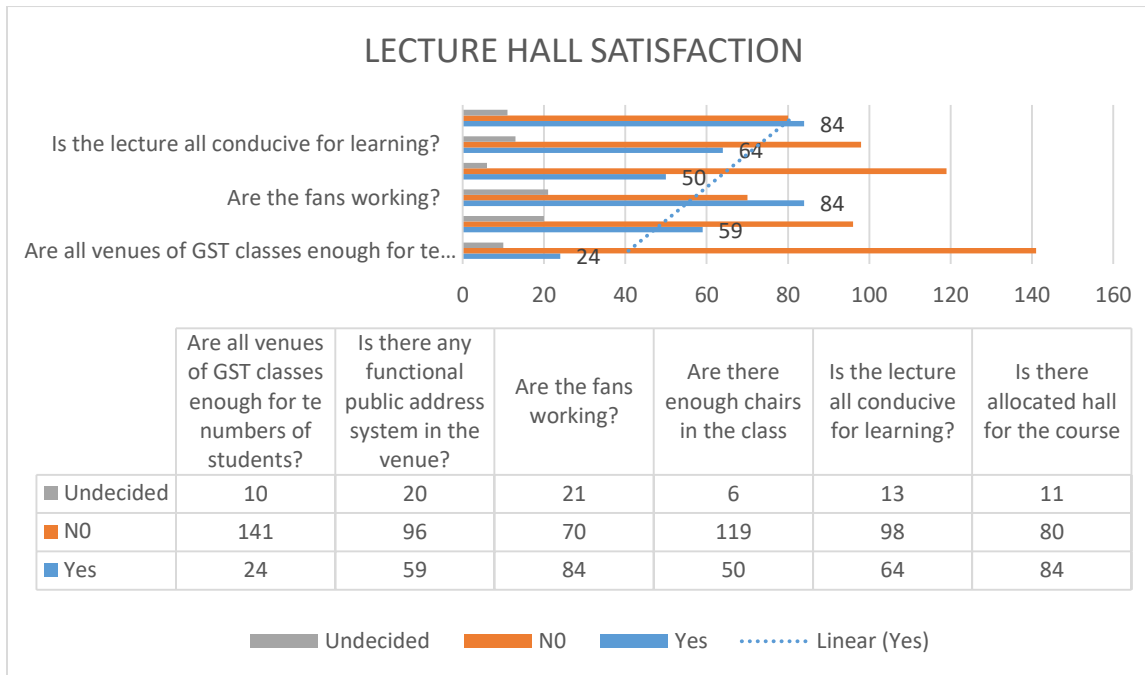


Table 4.4 shows the level of satisfaction of the lecture venue.

From the opinion of the respondents its clear on the table that 84(48%) respondents’ response that there is lecture venue allocated for GST “use of library” in FUDMA. it can be seen clearly that 141(80.5%) says no that the venues allocated for GST “use of library” are not enough to take them for the GST ”Use of Library”, 96(54.8%) respondents also response that there is no public address system in the lecture venues, the table still highlight with an understanding figure 84(48%) that there’s fans at the lecture venue. However, 119(68%) response that there’s no enough chairs at the lecture venue while 98(56%) respondents’ response that the hall is not conducive for learning.

This findings shows more of dissatisfaction from the respondents and this is supported by Johnson (2018) in his study that examined students perception of lecture hall facilities and he identify several key factors that contribute to students dissatisfaction, and these factors are inadequate seating capacity, the absence of public address system, lack of proper ventilation or cooling systems, insufficient availability of chairs were commonly report as the sources of dissatisfaction and with all is mentioned above.

Conclusion

Based on the findings of the study, it could be concluded that GST122 “Use of Library” prepares Federal University Dutsin-Ma students toward effective utilization of Library resources and services and use of retrieval tools using the strategies and techniques acquired on how to search and retrieve information materials in their libraries. This can be enhanced by incorporating the course into the Universities curriculum as it is fairly offered in some Universities in Nigeria. The benefits of such are numerous. It would promote library patronage, increase retrieval tools usage and will make librarians to become more proactive in discharging their services.

Recommendations

Arising from the major findings and conclusion of this study, the following recommendations were made.

1. That due to the usefulness of the course to students, it should continue to be offered to help students learn the technicalities of using library and its resources to improved their academic activities.
2. The positive result recorded from the lecturers offering the course provide encouragement to lecturers and other educational institutions promoting library instruction and information literacy for life-long learning.
3. The government should provide more lecture theatre and more lectures facilities such as public address, chairs, modernize lecture hall for students to a convenient and satisfied lecture atmosphere.

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